

JAIL BREAK



Jails emptied in the pandemic. Should they stay that way?

A corrections officer stands near a door at the Miami-Dade County Pre-Trial Detention Center, Friday, June 4, 2021, in Miami.

Associated Press

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Jails emptied in the pandemic. Should they stay that way?

Continued from Front

By **WEIHUA LI** and **BETH SCHWARTZAPFEL** of **The Marshall Project**
MICHAEL R. SISAK of **The Associated**

It wasn't long after Matthew Reed shoplifted a \$63 set of sheets from a Target in upstate New York that the coronavirus pandemic brought the world to a standstill.

Instead of serving a jail sentence, he stayed at home, his case deferred more than a year, as courts closed and jails nationwide dramatically reduced their populations to stop the spread of COVID-19.

But the numbers have begun creeping up again as courts are back in session and the world begins returning to a modified version of normal. It's worrying criminal justice reformers who argue that the past year proved there is no need to keep so many people locked up in the U.S.

By the middle of last year, the number of people in jails nationwide was at its lowest point in more than two decades, according to a new report published Monday by the Vera Institute of Justice, whose researchers collected population numbers from about half of the nation's 3,300 jails to make national estimates.

According to the report, shared with The Marshall Project and The Associated Press, the number of people incarcerated in county jails across the country declined by roughly one-quarter, or 185,000, as counties aggressively worked to release people held on low-level charges, dramatically reduced arrest rates and suspended

court operations.

But in most places, the decrease didn't last long: From mid-2020 to March 2021,

source of income. Without income, he has no way to pay rent, and he fears that unless a family member

"In the first few months, really almost all we did was releases," said Florida Circuit Criminal Court Judge

tional evidence of preexisting conditions, new medical records or information from family — and tried again, three and even four times, Eisinger said.

And it worked. By June of last year, the Palm Beach County Jail had gone from about 1,750 people before the pandemic to 1,500, according to data compiled by the Vera Institute of Justice.

"There was a real fear that people were going to get sick and die. Most judges did really factor that in," Eisinger said.

The pandemic underscored what reform advocates have been saying for years: Cramped and filthy jails are the wrong place for most people who have been arrested.

In many places, though, the push to clear out jails and rethink incarceration has been short-lived. Momentum for long-lasting change is wavering in the face of a rise in crime — including shootings and other violence — after several years at or near historic lows.

Police leaders and union officials in places like New York City and Philadelphia have blamed policies freeing people from jail, though there is little evidence that people on release are behind the surge of new crimes.

Some lockups were back at pre-pandemic levels even before vaccines were ready last winter.

In Philadelphia, District Attorney Larry Krasner, elected as part of a wave of high-profile, progressive prosecutors, said the precautions brought on by the pandemic cannot solve the problems of the criminal justice system.

"I don't think that there's any way to take a completely anomalous moment — the most anomalous moment in criminal justice of the century — and say that this is the new model," said Krasner, a Democrat. "But ... if the question is whether the most incarcerated country in the world should be less incarcerated, the answer is: Hell yes." □



The Palm Beach County Main Detention Center on Friday, June 4, 2021, in West Palm Beach, Fla. Associated Press

the number of people in jails awaiting trial or serving short sentences for minor offenses climbed back up again by more than 70,000, reaching nearly 650,000.

"Reducing the incarcerated population across the country is possible," said Jacob Kang-Brown, a senior research associate at the Vera Institute of Justice and author of the new report. "We saw decreases in big cities, small cities, rural counties and the suburbs, but the increase we see is troubling."

In the Genesee County Jail in New York, where Reed recently began a six-month sentence for petit larceny, there were, for a time, only 35 people jailed, down from 90 before the pandemic, according to data compiled by the Vera Institute.

Defendants had court dates pushed off, and judges went to extra lengths to allow people to wait at home rather than in jail. By March, there were 54 people jailed in the county lockup.

For Reed, who said he has struggled with an addiction to crack cocaine, going to jail has meant losing his disability checks, his only

can take him in, he will be homeless when he is released in September. He doesn't understand the point of sending him to jail now.

"They could have at least offered me drug court or some type of rehab or something," he said in an interview from the Genesee County Jail last week. More than 40 people have died of COVID-19 in jails since the start of the pandemic, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey of nearly 1,000 jails. That is likely an undercount; the virus has killed more than 2,600 prisoners and 207 staff in U.S. prisons, where deaths are easier to track.

Officials across the country, from small towns to suburbs and big cities, realized the danger and worked to get many people out of jail.

Public defenders and prosecutors — typically on opposing sides — collaborated with judges, sheriffs and local police departments to identify those in jail who could safely be released, and to make plans to send fewer people to jail, according to interviews with officials in more than a dozen counties.

Nushin Sayfie in Miami-Dade County.

Bryan County, Georgia, reduced its jail population from 37 to 11, according to the Vera Institute.

Sheriff Mark Crowe told police in the surrounding towns that he would only jail people charged with serious crimes like domestic violence. It was a challenge to persuade local law enforcement "to back off on some of the minor offenses you'd normally send to jail," said jail administrator Larry Jacobs. "With traffic offenses, we told them, 'Write them a ticket, give them a court date and wave goodbye.'"

As courthouses closed, many defense attorneys, with none of the hearings and motions that usually fill their calendars, focused exclusively on getting clients out of jail. In Palm Beach County, Florida, the public defenders' office set up a team "to keep reviewing and reviewing people in custody and coming up with creative arguments," said Dan Eisinger, the county's chief assistant public defender. If the judge denied bond the first time, the team went out to look for more information — addi-



Time ticking away, Democrats face wrenching test on agenda

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bracing for political trouble, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer warned Democratic colleagues that June will “test our resolve” as senators return Monday to consider infrastructure, voting rights and other stalled-out priorities at a crucial moment in Congress.

Six months into the party's hold on Washington, with Joe Biden in the White House and Democrats controlling the House and Senate, there is a gloomy uncertainty over their ability to make gains on campaign promises.

As Democrats strain to deliver on Biden's agenda, the limits of bipartisanship in the 50-50 Senate are increasingly clear: Talks over an infrastructure package are teetering, though Biden is set to confer again Monday with the lead GOP negotiator, and an ambitious elections overhaul bill is essentially dead now that Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., announced his opposition Sunday.

“We need to move the ball,” said Yvette Simpson, CEO of Democracy for America, a liberal advocacy organization.

“We told everyone to come out against all odds in the pandemic and vote,” she



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters after final votes going into the Memorial Day recess, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, May 28, 2021.

Associated Press

said about the 2020 election. The promise was that with Democrats in power, “we’re going to have all these great things happen, their lives are going to be better. And what they’re finding is that it looks like Washington as usual.”

The summer work period is traditionally among the busiest for Congress, but Democrats are growing wary because time is running out for Biden to negotiate a sweeping infrastructure package and other priorities are piling up undone. The days ahead are

often seen as a last chance at legislating before the August recess and the start of campaigns for next year's elections. Schumer, in setting the agenda, is challenging senators to prepare to make tough choices. But he is also facing a test of his own ability to lead the big tent party through a volatile period of shifting priorities and tactics in the aftermath of the Trump era and the Capitol insurrection.

While Democratic senators have been generating goodwill by considering bipartisan bills in the evenly

split Senate, they face mounting pressure from voters who put them in office to fight harder for legislation that Republicans are determined to block with the filibuster. Democrats in the evenly split Senate hold the majority because Vice President Kamala Harris can be the tie breaker, Key among that legislation is S.1, the elections and voting overhaul bill, which now appears headed for defeat. But Schumer also said votes may be coming on gun control legislation and the Equality Act, a

House-passed bill to ensure civil rights for the LGBTQ community. Fed up by the delays, some senators are ready to change the rules to eliminate the filibuster, which they blame for the inaction. The long-running Senate filibuster rules require 60 votes to advance most legislation, meaning as many as 10 Republicans would need to cross party lines to help Democrats achieve their priorities. Some senators propose reducing the voting threshold to 51. But Manchin, in announcing his opposition to the voting rights bill Sunday as the “wrong piece of legislation to bring our country together,” also restated his refusal to end the filibuster — for now, denying his party a crucial vote needed to make the rules change that could help advance its agenda.

Without support from Manchin or others, including Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., who also wants to keep the filibuster, Schumer is all but warning that Democratic senators will be forced to confront the limits of their fragile majority. That could exacerbate party divisions and expose Democrats to criticism from Republicans eager to show that Biden's party cannot govern.

“The June work period will be extremely challenging.” □

U.S. has recovered ransom payment made after pipeline hack

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has recovered the majority of a multimillion-dollar ransom payment to hackers after a cyberattack that caused the operator of the nation's largest fuel pipeline to halt its operations last month, officials said Monday.

The operation to recover the cryptocurrency from the Russia-based hacker group is the first undertaken by a specialized ransomware task force created by the Biden administration Justice Department, and reflects what U.S. officials say is an increasingly ag-

gressive approach to deal with a ransomware threat that in the last month has targeted critical industries around the world.

“By going after an entire ecosystem that fuels ransomware and digital currency, we will continue to use all of our tools and all of our resources to increase the costs and the consequences of ransomware attacks and other cyber-enabled attacks,” Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said Monday at a news conference announcing the operation.

Colonial officials have said they took their pipeline system offline before the

attack could spread to its operating system, and decided to pay a roughly \$4.4 million ransom in hopes of bringing itself back online as soon as it could. The 63.7 bitcoin ransom — a favored currency of hackers because of the perception that it is more difficult to trace — is currently valued at \$2.3 million. “The extortionists will never see this money,” said Stephanie Hinds, the acting U.S. attorney for the Northern District of California, where the seizure warrant was filed. The FBI generally discourages the payment of ransom, fearing it could encourage additional hacks. □



Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco announces the recovery of millions of dollars worth of cryptocurrency from the Colonial Pipeline Co. ransomware attacks as she speaks during a news conference with FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate and acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California Stephanie Hinds at the Justice Department in Washington, Monday, June 7, 2021.

Associated Press

Supreme Court rules against immigrants with temporary status

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Monday that thousands of people living in the U.S. for humanitarian reasons are ineligible to apply to become permanent residents.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote for the court that federal immigration law prohibits people who entered the country illegally and now have Temporary Protected Status from seeking “green cards” to remain in the country permanently.

The designation applies to people who come from countries ravaged by war or disaster. It protects them from deportation and allows them to work legally. There are 400,000 people from 12 countries with TPS status.

The outcome in a case involving a couple from El Salvador who have been in the U.S. since the 1990s turned on whether people who entered the country illegally and were given humanitarian protections were ever “admitted” into the United States under immigration law.

Kagan wrote that they were not. “The TPS program gives foreign nationals nonimmigrant status, but



In this Nov. 5, 2020, file photo the Supreme Court is seen in Washington.

it does not admit them. So the conferral of TPS does not make an unlawful entrant...eligible” for a green card, she wrote.

The House of Representatives already has passed legislation that would make it possible for TPS recipients to become permanent residents, Kagan noted. The bill faces uncertain prospects in the Senate.

President Joe Biden has said he supports the change in the law. But his administration, like the Trump administration, argued that current immigration law doesn't

permit people who entered the country illegally to apply for permanent residency.

On the other side were immigrant groups that argued many people who came to the U.S. for humanitarian reasons have lived in the country for many years, given birth to American citizens and put down roots in the U.S.

Federal courts around the country had come to conflicting decisions about whether the grant of TPS status was, by itself, enough to enable an immigrant to

try to obtain permanent residency.

Former President Donald Trump tried to cancel the program for many immigrants, stoking fear they could be sent back to their homelands where they haven't lived in many years.

“All of these families that are established in the United States and have lived in our communities for decades faced a very real threat,” said Lisa Koop, a lawyer with the National Immigrant Justice Center who also teaches at Notre

Dame's law school.

In 2001, the U.S. gave Salvadoran migrants legal protection to remain in the U.S. after a series of earthquakes in their home country.

People from 11 other countries are similarly protected. They are: Haiti, Honduras, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen.

Monday's decision does not affect immigrants with TPS who initially entered the U.S. legally and then, say, overstayed their visa, Kagan noted. Because those people were legally admitted to the country and later were given humanitarian protections, they can seek to become permanent residents.

Also on Monday, the court: — Declined to hear a challenge to the requirement that only men register for the draft when they turn 18. — Agreed to hear a case in which the Biden administration wants to halt a lawsuit over FBI surveillance of Muslims in California because it could reveal “state secrets.”

— Turned away an appeal questioning the federal Food and Drug Administration's authority to regulate electronic cigarettes. □

US: California militia plotted ‘war’ against police



This June 7, 2020, file booking photo from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office shows Steven Carrillo.

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — An Air Force sergeant accused of killing two law enforcement officers in California last year was part of a rightwing militia known as

the Grizzly Scouts that held firearms trainings, scouted protests, and laid out terms of “war” against police, a newspaper reported Monday. The Santa Cruz Sentinel cited court documents that show the suspected gunman, Steven Carrillo, was not a lone actor but a member of an anti-government group that was preparing for more deadly attacks on law enforcement. The court filings reveal the most extensive details yet on the investigation into the May 29, 2020 fatal shooting of Federal Protective Service Officer Dave Patrick Underwood in Oakland and the June 6, 2020 killing of Santa Cruz Sheriff Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller in an ambush in the community

of Ben Lomond. Carrillo has pleaded not guilty to both killings.

Most members of the Grizzly Scouts are still at large, federal prosecutors said. The group identifies with a loosely-affiliated, nationwide militia movement that uses the name “Boogaloo” and favors Hawaiian shirts and violent rhetoric, but the Scouts' activities appear to be more carefully plotted, the newspaper reported. The court filings were submitted in the case against four other alleged Grizzly Scouts members, including the group's leader, who are accused of destroying evidence relevant to the Underwood and Gutzwiller murder investigations. They were written as part

of a failed attempt to keep all four defendants in jail pending trial. A federal magistrate ultimately decided three of them were not a danger to the community and did not pose flight risks.

In April, a federal grand jury indicted Jessie Alexander Rush, 29, of Turlock; Robert Jesus Blancas, 33, of Castro Valley; Simon Sage Ybarra, 23, of Los Gatos; and Kenny Matthew Miksch, 21, of San Lorenzo, on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice. Blancas, the only defendant who remains in jail, also faces a child enticement charge related to alleged sexual conversations with a teen girl that were discovered during the investigation. The filings

not only confirm Carrillo as one of the militia's roughly 25 members, but detail the group's alleged activities in mid-2020: trainings near Rush's home in Turlock, the creation of a “Quick Reaction Force” or QRF, and plans to send a member to scout out a protest in Sacramento.

The filings allege that, in a document entitled “Operations Order,” the militia described law enforcement officers as “enemy forces” and spoke of the possibility of taking some prisoner, writing that, “POWs will be searched for intel and gear, interrogated, stripped naked, blindfolded, driven away and released into the wilderness blindfolded with hands bound.” □

Harris says leaders need to restore hope in Guatemala

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday emphasized the need to restore hope for residents of Northern Triangle countries in order to address the increase in migration from the region as she faced the first major test of her diplomatic skills on a three day foreign trip meant to stem migration to the U.S. from those countries.

Her comments came at the start of her bilateral meeting with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei Monday morning. She plans to address everything from vaccine sharing to corruption in the region. But in her opening remarks, she emphasized the need for both leaders to act to improve the situation on the ground for Guatemalans, whom she said don't want to leave their homeland but are forced to by poor living conditions.

"Hope does not exist by itself, it must be coupled with relationships and trust, it must be coupled with tangible outcomes in terms of what we do as leaders to convince people that there is a reason to be hopeful about their future and the future of their children," she said.

Harris also said the fact she chose Guatemala and



Vice President Kamala Harris and Guatemala's Minister of Foreign Affairs Pedro Brolo wave at her arrival ceremony in Guatemala City, Sunday, June 6, 2021, at Guatemalan Air Force Central Command.

Associated Press

Mexico for her first overseas trip was a "reflection of the priority President Biden placed on this region." She said the two nations are "interconnected and interdependent" and it's in "our collective interest that we work together."

Their meeting came as the Biden administration is expected to announce new anti-trafficking and smuggling measures, and hopes to deliver new anti-corruption measures Monday as well, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of

anonymity to preview announcements before they have been made public. Harris is visiting Guatemala and Mexico as part of her role in dealing diplomatically with the irregular migration to the U.S., and she will meet with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Tuesday. In Guatemala, the country's widespread corruption will loom over the discussions, even as Harris seeks new agreements with Giammattei to help stem the spike in migration.

Nongovernmental orga-

nizations placed Guatemala's widespread corruption at the top of their list of concerns before Harris' visit. Last month, two lawyers who are outspoken critics of Giammattei's administration were arrested on what they say were trumped-up charges aimed at silencing them. The selection of judges for Guatemala's Constitutional Court, its highest, was mired in influence peddling and allegations of corruption. Giammattei picked his chief of staff to fill one of the five vacancies. When Gloria Porras, a re-

spected force against corruption, was elected to a second term, the congress controlled by Giammattei's party refused to seat her.

"Corruption really does sap the the wealth of any country, and in Central America is at a scale where it is a large percentage of GDP across the region," said special envoy Ricardo Zúñiga, who joined Harris in the meeting with Giammattei. "We see corruption as one of the most important root causes to be dealt with."

Besides her meeting with Giammattei on Monday morning, Harris will participate in a roundtable with Guatemalan community and civil society leaders, and she'll meet with young innovators and entrepreneurs, including a number of female entrepreneurs.

In addressing the root causes of migration, Harris has laid out an approach centered on creating better opportunities and living conditions in the region through humanitarian and economic aid. She's focused many of her public events and listening sessions before this visit on work with civil society organizations and international businesses, which her aides say is an acknowledgment that the work of improving the situation in the region cannot be done by its governments alone. □

Putin confirms Russian exit from overflight treaty

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) —

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a bill to withdraw from an international treaty allowing surveillance flights over military facilities, following the U.S. exit from the pact.

The bill was endorsed by Russian lawmakers after U.S. officials told Moscow last month that President Joe Biden's administration had decided not to reenter the Open Skies Treaty that the U.S. left under President Donald Trump.

As a presidential candi-

date, Biden had criticized Trump's withdrawal as "short-sighted." Moscow had signaled its readiness to reverse the withdrawal procedure and stay in the 1992 treaty if the United States returned to the agreement, but now Putin's signature seals the Russian withdrawal that would take effect in six months.

Putin and Biden are to have a summit in Geneva on June 16, a meeting that comes amid soaring tensions in Russia-U.S. ties that have hit post-Cold War lows after Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean

Peninsula, accusations of Moscow's interference in U.S. elections, hacking attacks and other issues.

The Open Skies Treaty was intended to build trust between Russia and the West by allowing the accord's more than three dozen signatories to carry out surveillance flights over each other's territories to oversee troop deployments and other military activities. More than 1,500 flights have been conducted under the treaty since it took effect in 2002, helping foster transparency and monitor arms control agreements.



In this file photo taken on Friday, April 26, 2019, A Russian Air Force Tu-214 flies over Offutt Air Force Base, Friday, April 26, 2019, in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

Trump pulled out of the pact last year, arguing that Russian violations made it untenable for Washington to remain a party, and the United States completed its withdrawal in November. Russia has rejected any vio-

lations, arguing that a few restrictions on observation flights it imposed in the past were permissible under the treaty and noted that the U.S. imposed more sweeping restrictions on observation flights over Alaska. □

Iran cleric who founded Hezbollah, survived book bomb, dies

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Ali Akbar Mohtashamipour, a Shiite cleric who as Iran's ambassador to Syria helped found the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah and lost his right hand to a book bombing reportedly carried out by Israel, died Monday of the coronavirus. He was 74.

A close ally of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Mohtashamipour in the 1970s formed alliances with Muslim militant groups across the Mideast. After the Islamic Revolution, he helped found the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard in Iran and as ambassador to Syria brought the force into the region to help form Hezbollah. In his later years, he slowly joined the cause of reformists in Iran, hoping to change the Islamic Republic's theocracy from the inside. He backed the opposition leaders Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karubi in Iran's Green Movement protests that followed the disputed 2009 re-election of then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"If the whole people become aware, avoid violent measures and continue their civil confrontation with that, they will win," Mohtashamipour said at the time, though Ahma-



In this Dec. 11, 2006, file photo, top cleric Ali Akbar Mohtashamipour, center, speaks during a conference on the Holocaust with Rabbi Moishe Arye Friedman, left, from Austria, and Rabbi Ahron Cohen, right, from England, in Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

dinejad ultimately would remain in office. "No power can stand up to people's will."

Mohtashamipour died at a hospital in northern Tehran after contracting the virus, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. The cleric, who wore a black turban that identified him in Shiite tradition as a direct descendant of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, had been living in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, Iraq, over the last 10 years after the disputed election in Iran.

Iran's current Supreme Leader Ayatol-

lah Ali Khamenei praised Mohtashamipour for his "revolutionary services," while President Hassan Rouhani said the cleric "devoted his life to promote Islamic movement and realization of the revolution's ideals."

Hard-line judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi, now considered the leading candidate in Iran's presidential election next week, also offered condolences to Mohtashamipour's family.

"The deceased was one of the holy warriors on the way to the liberation of Jerusalem and one of

the pioneers in the fight against the usurping Zionist regime," Raisi said, according to IRNA.

Born in Tehran in 1947, Mohtashamipour met Khomeini as the cleric remained in exile in Najaf after being expelled from Iran by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. In the 1970s, he crisscrossed the Mideast speaking to militants groups at the time, helping form an alliance between the future Islamic Republic and the Palestinian Liberation Organization as it battled Israel.

Once arrested by Iraq,

Mohtashamipour found his way to Khomeini's residence in exile outside of Paris. They returned triumphant to Iran amid the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In 1982, Khomeini deployed Mohtashamipour to Syria, then under the rule of dictator Hafez Assad. While ostensibly a diplomat, Mohtashamipour oversaw the millions that poured in to fund the Guard's operations in the region.

Lebanon, then dominated by Syria, which deployed tens of thousands of troops there, found itself invaded by Israel in 1982 as Israel pursued the PLO in Lebanon. Iranian support flowed into the Shiite communities occupied by Israel. That helped create a new militant group called Hezbollah, or "the Party of God."

The U.S. blames Hezbollah for the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut that killed 63 people, as well as the later bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in the Lebanese capital that killed 241 U.S. troops and another attack that killed 58 French paratroopers. Hezbollah and Iran have denied being involved.

"The court finds that it is beyond question that Hezbollah and its agents received massive material and technical support from the Iranian government," wrote U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth in 2003. □

IAEA head: Iran hasn't answered questions on uranium find

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has failed to answer questions about the discovery of uranium particles at former undeclared sites in the country, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Monday, calling on Tehran to provide information "without further delay."

Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has been pushing Iran for answers on three sites dating back many years where inspections had revealed traces of uranium of man-made origin, suggesting they were once connected to Iran's nuclear program.

The issue is separate from

the ongoing negotiations aimed at bringing the United States back into Iran's 2015 nuclear accord with world powers.

Grossi said in March that Iran had agreed to sit down with international technical experts investigating the discovery, and said he hoped to "come to some satisfactory outcome" by the time of the IAEA board meeting in June.

But in comments Monday to the IAEA's board of governors, Grossi said "after many months, Iran has not provided the necessary explanation for the presence of the nuclear material particles at any of the three lo-

cations where the agency has conducted complementary accesses." He said Iran also hasn't answered questions regarding another undeclared location.

"The lack of progress in clarifying the agency's questions concerning the correctness and completeness of Iran's safeguards declarations seriously affects the ability of the agency to provide assurance of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program," Grossi said.

"For objectivity's sake, I should say that the Iranian government has reiterated its will to engage and to cooperate and to provide



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Rafael Mariano Grossi from Argentina, before the start of the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting at the Vienna International Center in Vienna, Austria, Monday, June 7, 2021.

Associated Press

answers, but they haven't done that so far," he told reporters later. "So I hope

this may change, but as we speak, we haven't had any concrete progress." □

Train barrels into another in Pakistan, killing at least 51

By MUHAMMAD FAROOQ
and ASIM TANVEER

Associated Press

GHOTKI, Pakistan (AP) —

An express train barreled into another that had derailed in Pakistan before dawn Monday, killing at least 51 people and setting off a desperate effort to search the crumpled cars for survivors and the dead, authorities said.

More than 100 other people were injured. Cries for help pierced the night as passengers climbed out of overturned or crushed rail cars. The pleas continued to echo throughout the day at the scene in the district of Ghotki, in the southern province of Sindh.

Heavy machinery arrived to cut open some cars, and more than 15 hours after the crash, rescuers carefully removed wreckage as they looked for anyone who might remain trapped — though hopes were fading for survivors. The military deployed troops, engineers and helicopters to assist.

The Millat Express train derailed around 3:30 a.m., and the Sir Syed Express train hit it minutes later, said Usman Abdullah, a deputy commissioner of Ghotki. It was not immediately clear what caused the derailment, and the driver of the second train said he braked when he saw the



Soldiers and volunteers work at the site of a train collision in the Ghotki district in southern Pakistan, Monday, June 7, 2021.

Associated Press

disabled train but did not have time to avoid the collision.

About 1,100 passengers were aboard the two trains, rail officials said.

"The challenge for us is to quickly rescue those passengers who are still trapped in the wreckage," said Umar Tufail, a police chief in the district.

The death toll steadily rose through the day, and the chances of finding survivors were diminishing, said Rizwan Nazir, a district administration official.

Authorities brought in lights

so rescuers could work through the night. Relatives of some of the missing passengers waited nearby.

Passengers with critical injuries were to be brought by helicopter to a nearby hospital.

Engineers and experts were trying to determine what caused the collision, said Azam Swati, the minister for railways who headed to the scene of the crash. He told The Associated Press that all aspects would be examined, including the possibility of sabotage.

The segment of the rail-

way tracks where the crash took place was old and needed replacing, Habibur Rehman Gilani, chairman of Pakistan Railways, told Pakistan's Geo News TV. He did not elaborate.

Aijaz Ahmed, the driver of the Sir Syed Express, told the station that on seeing the derailed train, he tried his best to avoid the crash by braking but failed. Railway officials said Ahmed was slightly injured, and villagers pulled him from the train's engine after the crash.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his

deep sorrow over the tragedy, saying on Twitter that he asked the railway minister to supervise the rescue work and ordered a probe into the crash.

According to local media, some of the passengers on the Millat Express were heading to a wedding party.

Mohammad Amin, one of the passengers on the Millat Express who had minor injuries, told the AP from a hospital that before the train departed from the southern port city of Karachi, he and his brother saw mechanics working on one of the cars.

That led them to believe there was something wrong with it, but they were reassured all was fine. Amin said he believed the car that was being worked on was the one that later derailed. Railway officials said they were recording statements of survivors, including the drivers.

Train accidents are common in Pakistan, where successive governments have paid little attention to improving the poorly maintained signal system and aging tracks.

In 1990, a packed passenger plowed into a standing freight train in southern Pakistan, killing 210 people in the worst rail disaster in the nation's history. □

Mali junta leader sworn in as president after 2nd coup

By BABA AHMED

Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Mali's coup leader Col. Assimi Goita was sworn in Monday as president of a transitional government, solidifying his grip on power in the West African nation after carrying out his second coup d'etat in nine months.

The inauguration ceremony in the capital, Bamako, came as Mali faces increasing isolation from the international community over the junta's power grab. Already the African Union has suspended Mali's membership and France has temporarily suspended its joint military operations with the Malian military to exert pressure on Goita to

step aside.

Goita, who first grabbed power in August 2020 by overthrowing Mali's democratically elected president, eventually agreed to a transitional government led by a civilian president and prime minister. But two weeks ago he ousted those civilian leaders after they announced a cabinet reshuffle that sidelined two junta supporters without consulting him. Mali's constitutional court also approved him as interim president.

During his inauguration speech, Goita called on Malians to display "cohesion and solidarity." He pledged to reduce government spending and "to

facilitate access to drinking water and primary health care." Goita faces international pressure to hold an election in February 2022, as required by the original transitional government agreement last year. Given the latest developments, however, it is unclear what will happen on the election front.

Continued political instability in Mali, many fear, could further embolden Islamic extremists, who have been carrying out attacks for nearly a decade in the country's volatile north.

The West African regional bloc, known as the Economic Community of West African States, has been supporting mediation



In this Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 file photo, retired Col. Maj. Bah N'Daw, right, is sworn into the office of transitional president, and Col. Assimi Goita, left, head of the junta that staged the Aug. 18 2020 coup, is sworn into the office of transitional vice president, at a ceremony in the capital Bamako, Mali.

Associated Press

talks in Mali. ECOWAS also called for a new civilian prime minister in Mali to be

nominated immediately, and a new inclusive government to be formed. □

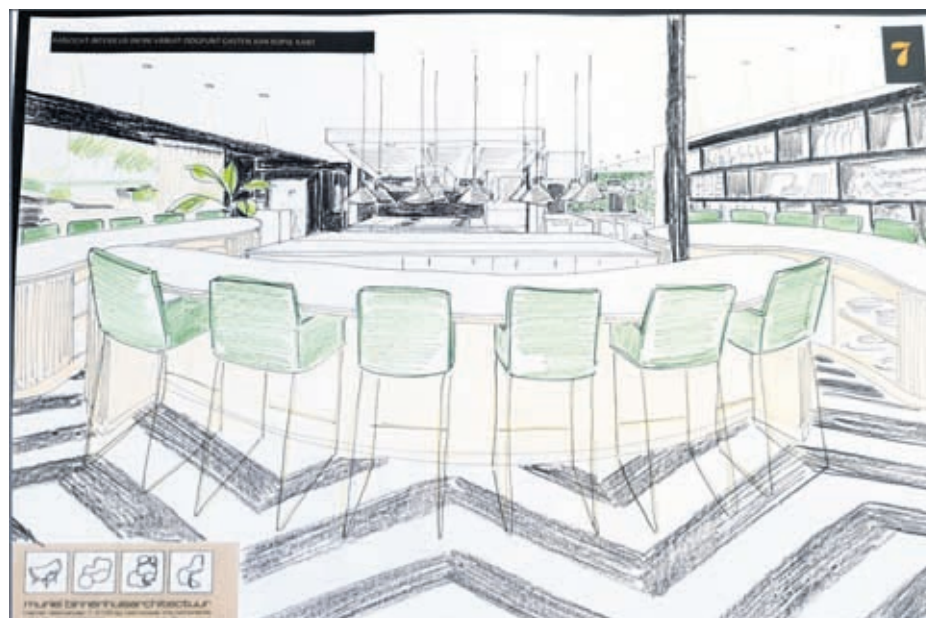
New beginnings after the kitchen table and beyond with new restaurant: Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

PALM BEACH — After spearheading The Kitchen Table for five years, receiving notable recognitions in USA Today, The Daily Meal and earning the #1 spot on Tripadvisor's list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. Infini, his new chef's table, which opened at the Blue Residences in November 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. The former The Kitchen Table space has since been renovated into a suitable culinary studio to host this vision. In describing these changes, Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadium-like view of each step of the preparations. The spotlights, which we carefully choreograph, follow the plates' transition from blank canvas into culinary works of art."

"It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

He had been sitting on the first menu for over a year. Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the eight-course Chef's Impression. "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create. Take our popular langoustine for example; we combined elements that are rarely paired together: the bitter, sour and salty flavors of the lemon cream, kombucha, green grapes, watercress and achiote, fused with the sweet and delicate taste of the langoustine induce ultimate umami."

After hosting the first menu for three months, the Executive Chef introduced a second tour de force in February 2021 — this time a pes-



catarian menu dedicated to Lent, of which Croes has to say: "I wanted to focus on the finest fish in the world, they are the protagonists of this season." Visitors can experience the second Chef's Impression until May 2021, at which point Croes and his team will reveal exciting new flavors for the summer.

"Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the six young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, Infini's Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently re-



turned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant Spectrum, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred FG Restaurant, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to Infini. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature cocktails, which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. Maître D' and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously



managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's Restaurant Daalder in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she serves the Salinity welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the Ritz Carlton Aruba, Werleman joins Infini to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

"It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speechless. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at Blue Residences currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit www.infiniaruba.com or call +297-699-3982 ☐



infini
by Urvin Croes



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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One good day in Curacao

It was during the year of 1763 that the Fiscal of Noord Miguel Alvarez, sailed a lot between the islands and the mainland. During one of his trips to Curacao, approaching the slave place, he saw one man who was in dire healthy conditions. Alvarez had convinced the slave master to let the slave go for a few ounces of gold, since he is not going to make it in those conditions.

The aruban Fiscal took him over to a friend's house in Willemstad-Curacao. Here they took care of him for to be fit to sail over to Aruba. Upon arriving in Aruba, Fiscal Alvarez, a native Aruban converted to chatolisism, told his fellow men that he had bought this mans freedom since he was impressed and overwhelmed with compasion when he say the way this man preformed the sign of the holy cross, the same way we do it he said. His name was Crisostomo and he was free again in the Aruba town of Noord. Over time, he learned some Spanish and was able to tell something about his life. Crisostomo was originally from Algeria in North Africa.



His parents died when he was very young and that they were Christians, received a Catholic education and that he has been married to a good woman named Elena Petronilia and together lived happily in Algeria for 14 years. They had five children but four of them died when they were very young and only one Anastacio was alive when tragedy struck. One sad day, Arabs slave traders came to his small town. They broke into his house. They destroyed everything in it and put them in chains. Many times the sad memories made Crisostomo cry. Crisostomo said, "They treated us worse than animals, women and children separated from men. It could count more than two hundred people, captives, merchants, and hundreds of camels. We arrived on the outskirts of the port city of Oran at dusk and board-

ed a ship full of people ready to be sent to the new continent. Many people died during the long march ". Crisostomo was shipped to Curacao. Crisostomo's story reached Catholic priest Pedro Ramirez who lived in Caracas and occasionally visited Aruba. Since he understood some French, he could figure out where or what exactly happened to Crisostomo's son and wife. The following year Father Pedro Ramirez wrote a letter to Crisostomo, telling him that in Caracas he had found his son Anastacio and that he would send him by ship to Aruba so that they could reunite again with his father. Anastacio had arrived to La Guajira where the priest Francisco bought his freedom and gave him a place to live in the monastery in Caracas. A year after Crisostomo and his son Anastacio were living

Episode CVII - 108

in Aruba a ship sailing out of Maracaibo en route to the Dominican Republic, ran aground in the South Western part of the island. People of Noord came over to give assistance. Among the passengers was certain Mr. Morales, a Colombian gentleman, together with his family and two servants. They all were taken to the town of Noord. One of the servants who were traveling with the Mr. Morales and family was Crisostomo's wife and Anastacio's mother Helena Petronilia. □

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Travellers' Choice
2020

Watch 'Ask Pilar': our videos show you the other Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today offers a series of videos 'Ask Pilar' on their Facebook page Aruba Today and on the website www.arubatoday.com. Since the start, October 2019, more than 20 videos have been created. Let us introduce to you this project and present the people behind it.



Why a video? Besides offering our free daily newspaper, posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content, we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variety to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than palm trees and beaches and in our videos

we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places and characters of any kind. We are all new to this, the goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, more to motivate our visitors with the places we visit as well as transmitting the good energy coming from it." As the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already shows, the viewer has the

opportunity to actually ask about the topics shown, or even suggest a location for a video. Just ask our host Pilar on Facebook and we will let you know.

The team

Pilar Flores, 35- years- old, is the jolly host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves doing the videos because she gets to know many interesting places

and meet a lot of nice people. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do."

The one capturing the images with his camera and editing them is our videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a marketer there is a lot of moving around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like."

Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders, working in this current position since July 2017. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and

educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we surely hope that rubs off on the viewer."

Corona Street Talk

During the pandemic a new series of videos was launched, dedicated to the COVID-19 crisis where we show people in their daily life during the corona time. Take a look on the website and social media for this new series called Corona Street Talk.

Check us out on Facebook Aruba Today or the website www.arubatoday.com and do not forget to like and share! Thank you for your support. □

CARIBAVIA will be held 'live' on St.Maarten

By Cdr Bud Slabbeart

ST. PETERSBURG - On June 15-17, the 5th annual Caribbean Aviation Meetup, CARIBAVIA for short, will be held on St.Maarten. The CARIBAVIA conference is an in-person communication platform for all Airlift stakeholders.

Airlift is the common denominator of the interests of stakeholders in aviation, tourism, business development and investment industries. It is equally important to government decision makers. CARIBAVIA tries to bring them all together for better understanding and increased collaboration. Matters like inter-island transportation issues and opportunities require increased attention since they are needed to prepare for future changes in the region.

"Every speaker may be considered a consultant at no charge during the conference days. First, they make a presentation. We encourage town-hall type sessions and interaction with the audience, thus questions and answers. And after the presentation, there is always an opportunity to talk to them more privately on matters of special interest. The top

value of the event is not just to sit and listen but rather to interact with these professionals and network," commented Cdr. Bud Slabbeart, conference chairman and coordinator.

"I'll give you three examples," Slabbeart continued, "The Vice-President of Frontier Airlines will join us from Denver, Colorado. His presentation will be on the airline's expansion in the Caribbean and network Planning. Dr. Patricia Ryan is considered the authority in the Americas on commercial revenue development at airports. She will make a presentation titled "Reimagining the Airport Concession Program", but also present a half-day workshop on "Improving Customer Experiences". The CEO of interCaribbean Airways will present on the "Development of Regional Air Transportation in the Caribbean". interCaribbean has a destination network from Cuba and Bahamas in the North to Barbados in the South of the region. It expands its fleet and intends to connect additional destinations. We are bringing these people to CARIBAVIA in person and questions can be asked ad hoc on location."

CARIBAVIA has assembled an audio-visual team of four young passionate and talented persons. They will receive training in the use of the equipment (four cameras) and the event will be their "operation theater". For this activity CARIBAVIA cooperates with the 'Infinite Sky Channel' based in Hollywood (LA/Beverly Hills) and their film industry professionals support their current and future audio-visual activities in the region.

The DaVinci Inflight Training Institute of Ft.Lauderdale, Florida holds a full day workshop on the Monday prior to the conference titled "Etiquette Protocol and Service Par Excellence". This workshop is suitable and appropriate for professionals who are active in client relations and service settings. The DaVinci management decided to support CARIBAVIA by offering this workshop which will benefit Caribbean professionals, operations be it on aircraft, at airports and FBOs, or in hospitality or tourism office operations. The DaVinci Training Institute has informed CARIBAVIA about its plans to sponsor a group of young students to attend a "NASA Space Youth Camp" whereby the stu-

dents' airfare and lodging are covered.

The speaker who will join the CARIBAVIA conference from the farthest away is a professional pilot from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She is also a Yoga Instructor. During the 3 conference days, Hatha Flow Yoga sessions will be held on the beach of the conference venue. And that for early risers who want to be fit and prepared for the day. Seven in the morning, 30 minutes. If participants like it, the Yogi (=yoga instructor) may extend it to 45 or 60 minutes. A little more yoga and a little less breakfast may be good for some people. Never done before, not heard of either, at any other aviation conferences. CARIBAVIA does things differently!

At the CARIBAVIA Welcome Dinner this year, Sapphire Pegasus Awards will be presented to six professionals for their outstanding performances and accomplishments. The Sapphire Pegasus Awards are a unique series of International Business Aviation Awards that are given to companies or individuals in the business aviation sector. The award events are held



in Europe in the fall, and at CARIBAVIA for the Caribbean and the Americas.

Nine international aviation and travel journalists from Europe and the USA of media outlets like Robb Report, Aviation International News, Caribbean Journal, etc. are committed to join the event. The international aviation magazine Bluesky-News will create a special CARIBAVIA issue that goes to 55,000 subscribers worldwide by email.

CARIBAVIA is vigilant about the bio-security of all who are participating or involved in implementation of the event. It will consult and follow the directions regarding gatherings. It will explore the options to meet in well-aired or outdoor locations at the venue.q

Liz Weston: What to do if you save too much for retirement

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Many Americans don't save enough for retirement, but it's entirely possible to save too much — at least according to the IRS.

Tax laws limit how much you're allowed to contribute to retirement accounts, and excess contributions can be penalized. Uncle Sam doesn't want you to leave the money in the account too long, either. Those who fail to take enough out of their retirement accounts also face heavy penalties.

Here's what you need to know to stay on the right side of the IRS' rules.

OVERSTUFFING YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Not everyone is allowed to contribute to retirement accounts. Contributions to an IRA or Roth IRA require you or your spouse to have "earned income" such as wages, salary, bonuses, commissions, tips or self-employment income. Pension payments, Social Security benefits, rental income and interest and dividends don't count. Also, the ability to contribute to a Roth phases out at modified adjusted gross incomes between \$125,000 and \$140,000 for single filers, from \$198,000 to \$208,000 for married couples filing jointly. People may not realize that the an-



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com. NerdWallet via Associated Press

nual limit on IRA contributions — \$6,000 for 2021, plus a catch-up contribution of \$1,000 for people 50 and over — is the cap for all IRA accounts. In other words, you can't contribute \$6,000 to a traditional IRA and another \$6,000 to a Roth IRA

in the same year. You also can contribute too much to a workplace plan such as a 401(k), especially if you change jobs during the year. Your new employer won't know if you've already made contributions to your previous employ-

er's plan that would count toward the annual limits (typically \$19,500 for 2021, plus a \$6,500 catch up contribution for people 50 and older), says tax expert Mark Luscombe, principal analyst at Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting. Even if you don't change jobs, your 401(k) contributions could be capped if you're deemed a "highly compensated employee." That can happen if not enough lower-paid workers contribute and you own more than 5% of the company, earn more than a certain amount (currently \$130,000) or are among the top 20% of employees ranked by compensation. Your excess contributions will be sent back to you as a check or other payment.

HOW TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE

But usually it's up to you to discover and fix an excess contribution. If you catch the problem soon enough — before you file your tax return for that year — you can limit the damage by withdrawing the excess contribution, says financial planner Robert Westley, a member of the American Institute of CPAs' Financial Literacy Commission. You would also need to withdraw any earnings attributable to that contribution. The withdrawal will be taxed as income. If the money came from an IRA,

you may owe a 10% early withdrawal penalty on earnings if you're under 59 ½, Westley says. If you miss the tax deadline, a 6% penalty could apply for each year the excess contribution remains in the IRA. An excess 401(k) contribution can trigger double taxation: The excess contribution and earnings are taxed when they're withdrawn, but the contribution is also added back to your taxable income for the year you made the contribution, Westley says. Contact a tax professional to discuss your options.

THE HEAVY PENALTY FOR NOT WITHDRAWING ENOUGH

You're not required to take distributions from a Roth IRA during your lifetime. Other retirement accounts, however, usually require you to start withdrawing minimum amounts after you turn 72. The age used to be 70 ½, but the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act changed it for people born after June 30, 1949. You must take your first distribution by April 1 of the year following the year you turn 72. After that, distributions must be made annually by Dec. 31. Miss a deadline or take too little, and the IRS penalty is 50% of the amount you should have withdrawn but didn't. □

Jeff Bezos riding his own rocket in July, joining 1st crew

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN** and **MARCIA DUNN**
Associated Press

Jeff Bezos will ride his own rocket into space next month, joining the first crew to fly in a Blue Origin capsule.

The Amazon founder announced Monday he will launch July 20 from Texas along with his firefighter brother Mark. Also making the 10-minute up-and-down hop will be the highest bidder in a charity auction. "To see the Earth from space, it changes you. It changes your relationship with this planet, with humanity. It's one Earth," Bezos, 57, said in an Insta-

gram post. "I want to go on this flight because it's a thing I've wanted to do all my life. It's an adventure. It's a big deal for me."

Bezos said he invited his younger brother — his best friend — to share the journey and make it even more "meaningful."

The flight will officially kick off Blue Origin's space tourism business. The company has yet to start selling tickets to the public or even to announce a ticket price for the short trips, which provide about three minutes of weightlessness. The capsule can hold six people, each with their own large window. The company hasn't

said who might occupy the remaining three seats on the debut passenger flight. Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson also plans to launch aboard his own rocket later this year, after one more test flight over New Mexico. SpaceX's Elon Musk — who's transported 10 astronauts to the International Space Station and already sold private flights — has yet to commit to a spaceflight.

Blue Origin successfully completed the 15th test flight of its reusable New Shepard rocket in April, with the capsule reaching an altitude of 66 miles (106 kilometers). Before liftoff, a



Jeff Bezos speaks at an event before unveiling Blue Origin's Blue Moon lunar lander in Washington, in this Thursday, May 9, 2019, file photo.

Associated Press

mock crew strapped into the capsule for practice, then hopped out, paving

the way for the upcoming flight with passengers on board. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 47 Like draft beer

1 Latin music

6 Swift

11 Mariner's place

12 Make blank

13 Reluctantly grin

15 Filmmaker Burns

16 Set fire to

17 Was a pioneer

18 Leg bone

20 Two-masted boats

23 Louvre location

27 River to the Mississippi

28 Region

29 "Cosmos" writer

31 Gaggles member

32 Rome's river

34 Play division

37 Barracks bed

38 LP successors

41 Show signs of exertion

44 Fencing move

45 Lone Ranger's pal

46 Praise highly

DOWN

1 Foot holder

2 Land unit

3 Free of fat

4 Pouchlike part

5 Low joints

6 Prepare for a big day

7 Sleeve filler

8 Sandbox toy

9 Cruise stop

10 Title paper

14 Objective

18 Parade sight

19 Shaving need

20 Casual greetings

21 Cry of insight

22 Costume part

24 Aussie hopper

25 Powerful people

26 Notice

30 Metallic element

31 Influences

33 Big snake

34 Skilled

35 Pivotal point

36 Campout sight

38 Euro division

39 Poll numbers

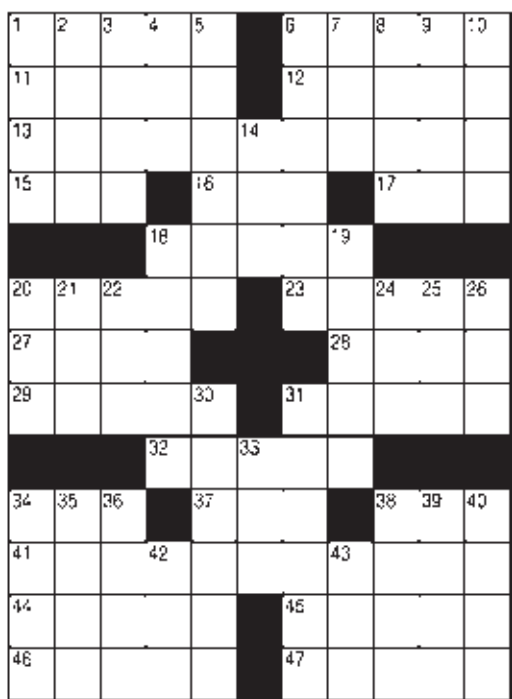
40 Cease

42 In the past

43 Took the title



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-8

CRYPTOQUOTE

T MAHAQ JMAV VBALBAQ LY

ETLP YQ WYMOQZLRUZLA Z

DZM YM WYDTMO LY BTC

CAMCAC — VTUUTZD

DZJAEAZWA LBZWJAQZP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TIME: THAT WHICH MAN IS ALWAYS TRYING TO KILL, BUT WHICH ENDS IN KILLING HIM. — HERBERT SPENCER

Biden's AI czar focuses on societal risks, preventing harm



This photo provided by The White House shows Lynne Parker.

Associated Press

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Computer scientist Lynne Parker made breakthroughs in getting robots to work together so they could perform difficult missions, like cleaning up after a nuclear disaster, waxing floors or pulling barnacles off a ship.

Her job now is getting the U.S. government working together — alongside American businesses, research universities and international allies — as director of a new national initiative on artificial intelligence. She's America's first AI czar, at a time of rising promise and a heavy dose of both hype and fear about what computers can do as they think more like humans.

"There's an increased need for education and training so that people know how to use AI tools, they know sort of what the capabilities are of AI so that they don't treat it as magic," Parker said in an interview with The Associated Press.

A first task for Parker, who took on the role in the waning days of the Trump administration, is adapting to priorities set by the Biden administration. Those include confronting the societal risks of AI and putting the technology to work on causes such as health equity and reducing climate change.

"Making sure that it's responsible use of AI so that we're not disadvantaging certain people, we're not achieving biased out-

comes," she said.

There's been bipartisan interest in boosting AI research and development, fueled in part by fears that the U.S. could fall behind China in channeling the technology's potential for national security and economic growth. Congress passed a law that created the National AI Initiative Office last year and the Trump White House set it in motion in January.

Parker, who first joined the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy in 2018, has bridged two administrations, both of which have promised to fund more AI research, set new technical standards and help guide how the technology is regulated. But there are subtle differences that showed up when the Biden administration recently launched a new AI.gov website, according to Ryan Calo, co-director of the University of Washington's Tech Policy Lab.

"This is AI as a global project, improving humanity," Calo said. "This is very different from the rhetoric of the Trump administration, which was all about this as a race that we have to win."

Biden made an early signal of the importance of science policy when he elevated the White House's chief science adviser to Cabinet rank. Geneticist and mathematician Eric Lander was sworn in to that role Wednesday. Also filling out the White House science office is sociologist Alondra Nelson, known for her work examining the societal implications of technology.

How much of a shift this is for Parker isn't totally clear to some of those who have worked with her, from her doctoral student days at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to her time helping to coordinate AI and robotics funding from the National Science Foundation during the Obama administration.

"I can't imagine that

Lynne drives around with an 'America First' bumper sticker," Calo said. "I would imagine that she's a better fit with the Biden administration because she is ultimately a believer in the importance of expertise." But other priorities remain the same, including a willingness to point fingers at China as the promoter of the type of AI applications — from social credit scoring to all-seeing surveillance — the U.S. and its allies should avoid.

While the Trump administration warned against needlessly hampering AI innovations with what Parker then called "top-down" regulation, Parker now says she is looking closely at what Europe is doing to set limits on risky applications. "All of those efforts are very much about like-minded countries coming together to demonstrate how we can use AI in an appropriate way, not violate the human rights that has been demonstrated in China and other authoritarian countries," she said.

The Tennessee-raised Parker said she grew up loving science, math and solving problems.

Her mom worked for a time as a science teacher and her dad spent his career as an engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the federally owned New Deal-era corporation known for its work in flood control and electricity generation. She was a teenager headed for Tennessee Technological University when her father, perusing the course catalog, suggested the still-emerging field of computer science.

More than a decade later, Parker was one of a group of women who were encouraged to pursue their own ideas at an MIT robotics lab in the 1980s and 1990s and went on to become prominent leaders in the male-dominated field, according to fellow lab alumna Helen Greiner, co-founder of iRobot, the company that makes Roomba vacuum cleaners. □

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Fiction, memoirs, poems spring from 1,000-word challenge

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A. Stella Oloye, a Washington, D.C.-based writer working on an Afrofuturism novel, was at a low point this spring when she learned of an online challenge she likens to a “gift from God”: #1000wordsofsummer.

The rules: Set down 1,000 words a day for 14 days. Fiction or nonfiction, poetry or dialogue, inspired or uninspired, for a future book or simply for the sake of writing.

“I was feeling really isolated plugging away, 2,000 words a day in the first quarter of the year, and had been looking for a writing community to stave off my lonely writer blues,” she told The Associated Press recently. “So when the 1,000 words of summer challenge crossed my (Twitter) timeline, I knew I had the opportunity to pair some much-needed community with targeted accountability to finish what I’ve started. I joined to combat the end-of-the-road fatigue I was experiencing.”

Organized and presided over by Jami Attenberg, #1000wordsofsummer has grown from around 2,000 participants in 2018 to more than 14,000 this year, drawing in emerging writers such as Oloye and such established authors as Attenberg, Roxane Gay and Deesha Philyaw.



This image released by Ecco/HarperCollins shows author Jami Attenberg, founder of the 1,000 word challenge, calling for people to write 1,000 words a day for 14 days. The 2021 challenge began May 31 and ends Sunday.

Associated Press

Rachel Yoder wrote some of “Nightbitch,” a novel which comes out in July and has been optioned for a film starring Amy Adams, during a previous 1,000-word challenge. Attenberg herself worked on her memoir “I Came All This Way To Meet You: Writing Myself Home,” scheduled for release in January.

“One of the real reasons I started this, and persisted with it, is that writing gives

me so much joy and I want that same joy for other people,” Attenberg says. The 2021 challenge began May 31 and ends Sunday. Online writing events aren’t new. The nonprofit organization NaNoWriMo has unofficially declared November to be National Novel Writing Month, with Sara Gruen’s bestselling “Water for Elephants” among the books to come out of it. The internet also is home to au-

thor Rebecca Fyfe’s Cha-BooCha, which gives writers the month of March to complete an “early reader, chapter book, middle-grade book or YA novel,” and author Julie Hedlund’s 12 x 12, for which participants attempt 12 picture books in 12 months and might see their names on a “Winner’s Wall.”

Attenberg’s project is more informal and open-ended, with no honors or promises, no kind of writing favored over another, and no specific goal beyond the number of words. The concept arose spontaneously three years ago. Attenberg and a fellow author based in New Orleans, Anne Gleson, decided to start a writing “boot camp” for themselves, 1,000 words a day. Attenberg shared her idea on Twitter and Instagram, and friends and strangers alike wanted to be included.

“It was very organic and natural. I’ve learned that on social media you try not to force things. You just let people respond to things rather than force things to happen,” says Attenberg, whose other books include the bestselling novels “The Middlesteins” and “All Grown Up.”

Attenberg offers encouragement on her Craft Talk newsletter (<https://1000wordsofsummer.substack.com>), and has brought in Celeste Ng and

Lauren Groff among others to share advice. One of this year’s contributors is Rumaan Alam, whose novel “Leave the World Behind” was a National Book Award finalist in 2020.

“Advice about writing is mostly pretty awful, but a long time ago, another writer said something to me, really an aside, a stray thought, that has stuck with me, as advice about writing, or maybe advice about life itself. ‘No one is ever going to ask you to write a book,’ she said, and she’d know, having published three at that point,” Alam writes.

“Take the ‘book’ out of it; no one will ask you to write, full stop. It’s up to you. You probably already knew that, which is why you’re trying to produce 1,000 words a day right now.”

Participants follow different paths to 1,000 and have different reasons for trying. Nicole Stellon O’Donnell is primarily a poet, but also writes “little bricks of prose” to reach her quota, and when finished looks for lines she can use for standalone poems.

Fiction writer Dantiel Moniz struggled to set down any words in 2020, whether because of the pandemic or stress over the presidential election. The writing challenge has helped assure her she can still “remember how to do it, and it was so nice and exciting.” □

Bruce Springsteen plans Broadway return of his one-man show



This Oct. 23, 2019 file photo shows Bruce Springsteen at the world premiere of HBO Documentary Films’ “Very Ralph” in New York.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boss just can’t quit Broadway.

Bruce Springsteen will return to Broadway this summer for a limited run of his one-man show “Springsteen on Broadway.” Performances at the St. James Theatre begin June 26 with an end date set — at least for now — for Sept. 4. “I loved doing ‘Springsteen on Broadway’ and I’m thrilled to have been asked to reprise the show as part of the reopening of Broadway,” the rocker said in a statement.

“Springsteen on Broadway” debuted in 2017 and was extended three times, finally closing in late 2018. Columbia Records put out a two-disc soundtrack of “Springsteen on Broadway” and a filmed version of the show is on Netflix. In the show, Springsteen performs 15 songs — including “My Hometown,” “Thunder Road,” and “Born in the USA” — and tells stories about growing up in New Jersey. Some of the stories will be familiar to readers of his autobiography, and he even reads from it. His wife, Patti Scialfa, accompanies him for “Brilliant Disguise.”

Audience members will be required to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination in order to enter the theater. □

Djokovic, Nadal beat Italian teens to reach French Open QFs



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a return to Italy's Lorenzo Musetti during their fourth round match on day 9, of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, France, Monday, June 7, 2021.

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — For two sets and more than two hours at the French Open on Monday, Novak Djokovic found himself being outplayed by a 19-year-old opponent from Italy making his Grand Slam debut.

And yet, to hear Djokovic tell it afterward, he had the kid right where he wanted him. Which turned out to be true.

Rafael Nadal also faced an Italian who's just 19 in the fourth round — and also took a bit of time to get going. Nadal's trouble lasted all of eight games and less than 45 minutes Monday before he took control, ran his Roland Garros streak to 35 consecutive sets and joined Djokovic in reaching a record 15th quarterfinal at the clay-court major tournament.

After dropping a pair of tiebreakers, Djokovic suddenly went from a big deficit to his best tennis. He grabbed 13 games in a row before Lorenzo Mu-

setti stopped playing because of lower back pain and cramps while trailing 6-7 (7), 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-0, 4-0. "I like to play young guys in best-of-five, because I feel even if they are leading a set or two sets to love, as it was the case today, I still like my chances," said the top-seeded Djokovic, who is 34, "because I feel like I'm physically fit and I know how to wear my opponent down."

Nadal, who turned 35 last week, trailed 5-3 early on against the 18th-seeded Jannik Sinner, who served for the first set at 5-4.

"I was playing a very good player with a big future," Nadal said.

But 13-time French Open champion Nadal took eight games in a row and, after a blip in the second set, resumed his excellent play and closed his 7-5, 6-3, 6-0 win on a 10-game run. Musetti, a talented Italian so good at the outset with his one-handed backhand and tremendous touch, is hardly used to this best-of-

five-set format at the majors and he took a medical timeout after the fourth.

"It didn't make sense to keep playing. I couldn't win any points or stay in the rallies. It was hard for me to move," Musetti said. "I was at my limit."

Djokovic wound up 9 for 9 on his break-point chances and with a 53-30 edge in winners.

How shocking was it just to see Musetti take a pair of sets against Djokovic, who is seeking his second French Open championship and 19th Grand Slam trophy overall?

"Even for me," Musetti acknowledged afterward, "it was a little surprising."

The top-seeded Djokovic never has been beaten at Roland Garros by someone ranked as low as the No. 76 Musetti. Djokovic's only previous loss against a teen at the French Open came back in 2006 against a guy named Nadal. And Djokovic entered the day 14-0 in the fourth round at the place.

Plus, consider Djokovic's recent form: He was 10-0 in Grand Slam matches in 2021 and hadn't ceded more than four games in any set in Paris — let alone an entire set — while dropping a total of just 23 games until Monday.

Eventually, Djokovic earned his fifth career comeback from two sets down by limiting his mistakes and making Musetti look like what he is: Someone with plenty of promise but not much experience.

Djokovic's 49th major quarterfinal will come against another Italian, No. 9 seed Matteo Berrettini, who advanced without needing to swing his racket once Monday.

That's because the man Berrettini was supposed to face, 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer, withdrew Sunday in order to let his surgically repaired right knee and the rest of his 39-year-old body recover with an eye to Wimbledon, which starts June 28.

Just as Nadal vs. Sinner was

a rematch from last year in Paris — Sinner also served for the first set in that one before losing in three — Nadal will play No. 10 seed Diego Schwartzman next in a reprise of a 2020 semi-final.

Schwartzman saved seven set points in the opening set Monday on the way to eliminating Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6 (9), 6-4, 7-5.

In women's play, 17-year-old American Coco Gauff became the youngest player since 2006 to reach the women's quarterfinals at any Grand Slam tournament by overwhelming No. 25 seed Ons Jabeur 6-3, 6-1 in under an hour.

Gauff now meets Barbora Krejčíková, who reached her first major quarterfinal with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Sloane Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open champion and 2018 French Open runner-up. Maria Sakkari, who is seeded 17th, beat No. 4 Sofia Kenin, last year's runner-up, 6-1, 6-3. Sakkari's quarterfinal opponent will be 2020 champion Iga Świątek or Marta Kostyuk.

Gauff, Krejčíková and Sakkari are three of the six women making their Grand Slam quarterfinal debuts.

On an afternoon that began with the sun shining, before clouds intervened, Djokovic's two-handed backhand, his best shot, was off. Way off.


By the second game of the third set, he already had accumulated two dozen unforced errors off that wing alone.

And while Djokovic is normally adept at tiebreakers — he made no errors at all in the three tiebreakers of his 2019 Wimbledon final win against Federer — Musetti was on-target and so good in that high-pressure, high-stakes environment. Musetti is now 10-0 in tour-level tiebreakers for his nascent career.

After that, though, Djokovic took over.

"I never thought I had it won. Absolutely not," Musetti said. "Against a champion like Djokovic, you truly only have a victory when he shakes your hand at the end." □


Associated Press



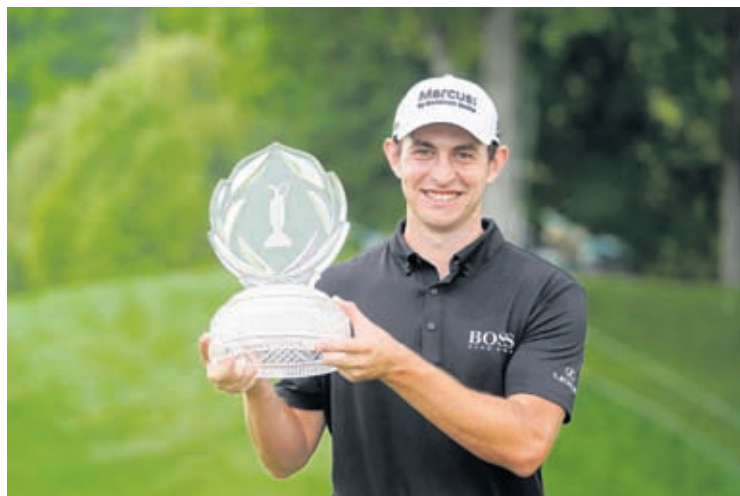


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Memorial as much about Cantlay winning as Rahm not playing



Patrick Cantlay holds the trophy after winning the Memorial golf tournament, Sunday, June 6, 2021, in Dublin, Ohio.

Associated Press

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — So much about the Memorial felt as though golf was back to normal.

Thousands of fans surrounded the 18th hole, with tournament founder Jack Nicklaus sitting behind the green as he waited to greet the winner. Patrick Cantlay had a firm grip on the crystal trophy, just like he did two years ago the last time spectators roamed Muirfield Village.

It even rained, though not for very long.

But so much about Cantlay's playoff victory Sunday over Collin Morikawa made this Memorial unlike any of the previous 45 editions.

This was as much about who won as who didn't even play.

Cantlay, like everyone else at Muirfield Village, felt horrible than Jon Rahm went from tying tournament records — a 54-hole score of 18-under par and a six-shot lead — to being notified of a positive COVID-19 test that knocked him out of the final round. What would have happened?

"Such a weird situation and so unfortunate because — me included — everyone knows it would have

been a totally different day had that not happened," Cantlay said. "But there's nothing I could do about it." Cantlay walked off the 18th green Saturday evening facing a six-shot deficit and trying to figure out how low he would have to go in the final round to even have a chance. Morikawa had finished in the group ahead. He was in the clubhouse when his girlfriend sent a text to tell him what happened to Rahm.

"I went downstairs to look at the TV and you see what happened to Jon and it's awful," Morikawa said. "He deserved to go out and play really well, and he was 18 under. The rules are rules and you have to follow guidelines."

Padraig Harrington suffered a fate similar to Rahm. He had a five-shot lead in the Benson & Hedges International Open on the European Tour in 2000 when the club asked for scorecards of the winner to post in the clubhouse. That's when it was discovered Harrington never signed his card in the first round. The penalty was disqualification.

This felt out-of-the-blue because no one had tested positive during a tournament on the PGA Tour in 10 months. Branden Grace

was one birdie out of the lead (modified Stableford scoring) after 36 holes in the Barracuda Championship when he tested positive and had to withdraw. Rahm had been in the contact tracing program from having come in contact with someone who was COVID-19 positive, meaning he had to test every day to be able to play. Every test since Monday was negative until Saturday after the rain-delayed second round.

His 64 on Saturday was among the best rounds in Memorial history, nearly nine shots better than the average score. Rahm was the defending champion. He is No. 3 in the world.

And then he was gone. Nicklaus also wondered how much his absence would weigh on the players left to contend, though that wasn't a problem for either. This was out of their hands. All they could do was play.

"I did everything I could with the cards I was dealt," Cantlay said. "And I really did a good job of focusing today on the task at hand and staying present, and that's all you can do in this game." He did it a little better than everyone else.

Morikawa struggled to hit greens early, and then it cost him late. Cantlay missed six putts from 10 feet or closer — three for par, three for birdie — and thought it would cost him. The tournament without Rahm did not lack for drama. Morikawa had a one-shot lead with two holes to play when Cantlay poured in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to catch him. Both hit poor tee shots on the 18th and made par, each posting a 1-under 71 to finish at 13-under 275.

Rahm reached 13 under on the 11th hole Saturday.

What would have happened? Cantlay said a 71 mostly likely wouldn't have done the trick if Rahm were still playing. But he wasn't. On the 18th in the play-off, Morikawa missed the green from the fairway.

Cantlay gouged an 8-iron from the deep rough into the bunker. He blasted out to 12 feet and made the par putt, a winner when Morikawa chipped to 6 feet and missed his putt for par. □

NBCUniversal will have 7,000 hours of Tokyo Games coverage

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

NBCUniversal will present 7,000 hours of coverage of the upcoming Tokyo Olympics across eight networks and multiple digital platforms from July 20 to Aug. 8.

The Tokyo Games will be NBCUniversal's 11th consecutive Olympics production and ninth consecutive Summer Games — beginning with the 1988 Seoul Games. NBC's first Olympics were in Tokyo in 1964.

NBC is scheduled to air 250 hours across 17 days, headlined by its prime-time coverage.

NBC also announced earlier this year that it would air live coverage of the opening ceremony at 6:55 a.m. EDT on July 23. Tokyo is 13 hours ahead of the Eastern time zone, meaning many of the marquee events will take place during prime time in the U.S.

USA Network, CNBC, NBCSN, Olympic Channel and Golf Channel will combine for over 1,300 hours, while Telemundo Deportes and Universo have at least 309 hours for Spanish-language viewers.

Coverage of the Games begins July 20 at 8 p.m. ET on NBCSN with live soft-

ball and 4 a.m. ET on July 21 on USA Network when the United States faces Sweden in women's soccer.

NBCSN (440 hours) and USA Network (388.5 hours) will present round-the-clock coverage beginning July 24. NBCSN's coverage will focus on soccer, softball, beach volleyball, table tennis, handball, badminton, fencing and equestrian. USA Network will feature basketball, soccer and water polo as well as swimming, track & field, diving, beach volleyball, volleyball, cycling and triathlon.

CNBC (124.5 hours) will concentrate on diving, beach volleyball, skateboarding, rowing, canoeing, archery, water polo and rugby.

Olympic Channel (242 hours) will focus on tennis and wrestling while Golf Channel (111 hours) has coverage of the men's and women's tournaments.

NBC Sports Digital will stream more than 5,500 hours of coverage on NBCOlympics.com and the NBC Sports app. NBCUniversal's Peacock streaming service will include studio programming and other coverage that has yet to be finalized. □